SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
Executive Committee Meeting
Public Conference Call in Room M3709
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC
May 27, 1999

I. Attendees

Dr. Henry Anderson
Dr. Stephen Brown
Dr. Hilary Inyang
Dr. Morton Lippmann (Acting Chair)
Dr. Joe Mauderly
Dr. Granger Morgan
Dr. William Smith
Dr. Mark Utell

Other Members on the Phone
Dr. JoAnn Lighty, Member, Environmental Engineering Committee
Dr. Ishwar Murarka, Chair, EC Modeling Subcommittee

Others on the Phone
Dr. John Bachmann, EPA/OAR/OAQPS
Dr. John Festa, American Forest & Paper Association
Mr. Charles Fromm, International Business Services, Inc.
Mr. Steve Gibb, Risk Policy Report
Dr. Ralph Gingell, CMA Ethylene Oxide Industry Council Toxicology Group of the Chemical Manufacturers Association
Dr. John McCarthy, American Crop Protection Association
Dr. Robert Pauline, American Industrial Health Council
Ms. Kathleen Roberts, Chemical Manufacturer Association
Mr. Sam Rondberg, EPA/SAB Staff
Mr. Joel Rosenblatt, Center for Regulatory Effectiveness
Mr. Jeff Sloan, Chemical Manufacturers Association
Ms. Sara Thurin-Rollins, BNA Reporter
Dr. John Vandenburg, EPA/ORD/NHEERL
Dr. Bill Wood, EPA/ORD/NCEA

Moderator in M3709
Dr. Donald Barnes, Designated Federal Officer

Others present in Room M3709 are listed on the sign-in sheet (Attachment A).

II. Agenda

The meeting proceeded in accord with the attached agenda (Attachment B).

III. Dr. Lippmann convened the EC meeting at 12:05PM EDT. He was acting in the stead of Dr. Joan Daisey, who was unable to participate due to an intervening medical appointment.

IV. Review of Committee Reports

A. Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)

1. *Commentary on the Need to Address Source Reduction and Control Technology in $PM_{2.5}$ Research Plans* (Attachment C)

Dr. Inyang introduced the document, noting that the EEC had tried to be responsive to earlier comments of the EC.

Dr. Smith, Lead Discussant, indicated satisfaction with the Commentary and the way in which his modest comments on this draft had been addressed.

Dr. Mauderly, Associate Discussant, also expressed his overall satisfaction with the document, while suggesting some editorial changes.

Dr. John Bachmann of EPA, in response to a query from the Acting Chair, indicated that he had no issues with the Commentary.

ACTION 1: The Executive Committee approved the EEC's *"Commentary on the Need to Address Source Reduction and Control Technology in $PM_{2.5}$ Research Plans*," subject to final edits by the EEC Chair and DFO.

2. *Commentary on Environmental Risks of Natural Hazards* (Attachment D)

Dr. Inyang introduced the Commentary.

Dr. Randall Seeker, Lead Discussant, was unable to participate in the meeting, but he sent his comments to Dr. Barnes (Attachment E) which read, in part, "I have no reservations in accepting the report with the minor clarifications . . ."

Dr. Anderson, Associate Discussant, also endorsed the document, suggesting an additional statement about the role of state agencies.

Dr. Morgan encouraged further clarification about the frequency and intensity of natural hazards over time and the interplay between the number of such events and the loses associated with them. He recommended that a symmetric statement be added to the effect that while some measures of these events were increasing (e.g., economic loses in hurricanes, due to larger populations and increased development), other measures were decreasing (e.g., deaths in hurricanes, due to early warnings and more sophisticated responses by society).

Dr. Smith encouraged a stronger statement about the importance of damage to ecosystems. In this regard, he suggested that the Agency be urged to work with natural resource management agencies; e.g., Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service.

ACTION 2: The Executive Committee approved the EEC's *"Commentary on Environmental Risks of Natural Hazards*," subject to final edits by the EEC Chair and DFO.

B. EC Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Subcommittee's *Review of the Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines* (Attachment F)

Dr. Utell, Subcommittee Chair, introduced the discussion by summarizing the issues that were contained in the Charge to the Subcommittee. He noted that there was a challenging range of opinion on the Subcommittee, which is characteristic of reviews of important and controversial issues, such as this one. The Subcommittee recognized that the Agency's Guidelines would continue to be a work-in-progress and that, in that sense, they never would -- and never should -- be considered "finished." Rather, they should be continually worked on and updated, as needed, to reflect scientific advances. He noted that there would be another review of the Agency's document in late July with a special focus on children. He emphasized, however, that "it is time" for the Agency to go forward with these Guidelines, since they have been worked on for several years.

1. Public Comments

Members of the public provided their comments on the Subcommittee's report, in the order that they were received by the SAB office:

a. Dr. Ralph Gingell, CMA Ethylene Oxide Industry Council Toxicology Group of the Chemical Manufacturers Association (Attachment G)

In response, Dr. Utell thanked Dr. Gingell for his thoughtful comments, noting that he would look forward to the new information that Dr. Gingell would be sending him. He cited this an example of why the Guidelines should be considered "ever green"; i.e., always open to new information.

b. Mr. Charles Fromm, International Business Services, Inc. (Attachment H)

In response, Dr. Utell indicated that he would review the information that he had about the National Toxicology Program's position on the criteria for "known human carcinogens."

c. Dr. John Festa, American Forest & Paper Association (Attachment I)

In response, Dr. Utell reiterated his intention to document the Subcommittee's characterization of the NTP position on "known human carcinogen," tentatively citing a November 2, 1998 letter from Dr. Ken Olden, Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

2. Committee Discussion

Dr. Brown, Associate Discussant, had submitted extensive written comments (Attachment J). In his oral comments, he highlighted the following:

a. Aspects of the text of the report, the Executive Summary, and the transmittal letter.

b. Aspects of the handling of sensitive subpopulations; e.g., differential susceptibility of subpopulations (for example, children) vs. the differential value placed on those subpopulations by society.

c. The question of whether the Agency would conduct a quantitative risk assessment in cases, in which the evidence for carcinogenicity was "Suggestive." Dr. Jeanette Wiltse of EPA indicated that, in general, there would be no attempt to quantitate risk under those conditions.

Dr. Utell reported that he and the DFO had addressed most of Dr. Brown's comments.

Dr. Lippmann generally endorsed the report, raising some question about the discussion of the relative stability of the LED vs. ED risk estimates.

Dr. Morgan observed that this report was another example of an SAB report replete with ill-defined terms, such as "likely" and "not likely." He argued forcefully that the report acknowledges the imprecise nature of such terms and that, at some point in the not too distant future, the SAB should develop standard language for use in its reports. Dr. Utell concurred, citing the potentially ambiguous nature of "some," "several," and "few" in the report and endorsing the proposal for the development of some uniform approach to these issues within the SAB. He will insert this discussion into the transmittal letter to the Administrator.

In response to a question from Dr. Wiltse, Dr. Utell clarified the Subcommittee's call for additional explanation about "default assumptions" referred to defaults that had been substantively introduced in the Guidelines since the SAB's 1997 report.

ACTION 3: The Executive Committee approved the EC Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines Subcommittee's "*Review of the Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines*," subject to: a) incorporation of edits and consideration of the discussion at this meeting, and b) final review of the transmittal letter by Dr. Morgan.

C. EC Subcommittee on Models's *Advisory on the Charter for Council on Regulatory Environmental Monitoring (CREM)* (Attachment K)

Dr. Ishwar Murarka, Subcommittee Chair, introduced the topic for discussion, indicating that he and the DFO had received and addressed comments from Drs. Brown, Cummins, and Inyang before the meeting.

Dr. Hilary Inyang, Lead Discussant, endorsed the report with modest edits. He reported that Dr. Cummins, who could not be on the call, had communicated his comments to him. They both recognized the difficulties and importance of of models, whether the models are developed inside or outside the Agency. validation

ACTION 4: The Executive Committee approved the EC Subcommittee on Models's "*Advisory on the Charter for Council on Regulatory Environmental Monitoring* (CREM)," subject to final edits.

D. Radiation Advisory Committee's *Advisory on Addressing Risks from Indoor Radon* (Attachment L)

Dr. Brown, RAC Chair, introduced the discussion.

Dr. Mauderly, Lead Discussant, and Dr. Utell, Associate Discussant, had submitted written comments (Attachments M & N).

Dr. Brown acknowledged that there was additional work to do on the report in order to address these comments.

ACTION 5: The Executive Committee approved the Radiation Advisory Committee's "*Advisory on Addressing Risks from Indoor Radon*," subject to final approval by the vettors (Dr. Mauderly and Brown).

With no other business to come before the EC and at the insistence of the phone company, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,	Certified as True,
/s/	/s/
Donald G. Barnes, Ph.D. EC Designated Federal Officer	Morton Lippmann, Ph.D. Acting SAB Chair, Executive Committee

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A -- Sign-in sheet for those in M3709
Attachment B –- Agenda
Attachment C –- *Commentary on the Need to Address Source Reduction and Control Technology in $PM_{2.5}$ Research Plans*
Attachment D –- *Commentary on Environmental Risks of Natural Hazards*
Attachment E –- Comments of Dr. Seeker to Dr. Barnes on Natural Hazards
Attachment F –- *Review of the Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines*
Attachment G –- Comments of Dr. Ralph Gingell, CMA Ethylene Oxide Industry Council Toxicology Group of the Chemical Manufacturers Association
Attachment H –- Comments of Mr. Charles Fromm, International Business Services, Inc.
Attachment I –- Comments of Dr. John Festa, American Forest & Paper Association
Attachment J –- Comments of Dr. Brown Cancer RA GLs
Attachment K –- *Advisory on the Charter for Council on Regulatory Environmental Monitoring (CREM)*
Attachment L –- *Advisory on Addressing Risks from Indoor Radon*
Attachment M –- Comments of Dr. Mauderly on Radon
Attachment N –- Comments of Dr. Brown on Radon